THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) In a paper on "Safety Evaluation on Toilet Soaps, Bathing Bars and Synthetic Detergents" presented by a BIS Scientist at the Seminar on "Toxicology—Status Trends and Prospects" organised by Shriram Institute for Industrial Research on 31st March, 1993 at New Delhi, it was stated that so far, no third party testing and certification of toilet soaps for their quality and safety under the Scheme of Ecomark has been done by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

(c) As per Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, steps have been initiated to include toilet soaps and certain other soaps in Schedule 'S' to the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945, which stipulates that products listed in the Schedule shall conform to the Indian Standard Specifications laid down by BIS from time to time.

(d) and (e) No report regarding production of sub-standard soaps has been received.

Disposal of widow pension

*258. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARAYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of pensioners' cases are pending in various departments/Ministries of Government for a long time;

(b) whether large number of such cases have been referred by the Members of Parliament;

(c) whether Government propose to direct the concerned bodies to process and finalise the cases expediously; and

(d) the number and details of cases received during past two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) 58 cases of (widow) family pension were referred to this Ministry by Members of Parliament during the past 2 years. Final replies have been given in 51 cases and 7 cases are pending with other Ministries/State Governments who are being regularly reminded for expeditious settlement of the cases. The Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 1972 lay down in detail the steps to be taken by Heads of Offices for the prompt authorisation of family pension.

Revision of drug prices without cost-cum-technical study by the BICP

*259. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1987 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 1993 and state;

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of a large number of bulk drugs have been revised during the last two years without any cost-cum-technical study by the BICP:

(b) whether it is also a fact that in case of number of drugs prices were increased even when it was known that there was no cost-cum-technical study or even on the basis of out dated-cost-cum-technical study; and

(c) what are the details of all those bulk drugs where instances of this type have come to the notice of Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Fixation or revision of price of a bulk drug is done in accordance with the provisions of para 3 of

DPCO 1987 which inter-alia provides for fixation/revision after making such enquiry/obtaining data as Government may deem fit. Cost cum technical study is only a part of such enquiry. During the last 2 years, in 4 cases of bulk drugs viz., Ampicillin Trihydrate, Ampicillin Anhydrous, Amoxycillin Trihydrate and Doxycycline, the prices have been revised without recourse to cost-cum-technical study, as no such study was readily available.

*260. [Transferred to 11th May, 1993]

Mining of Uranium

1875. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining of uranium in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya has been started;

(b) if so, what kind of infrastructure has been laid for the purpose; and

(c) whether there has been any protest against the project from the people and local representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir. Only experimental mining of uranium in Khasi Hills is in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Hill Council has given approval for experimental mining. However, Rev. P B.M. Basaiawmoit, Convenor Khasi-Jaintia Environmental Protection Council and H.S Lyngdoh, Chairman, West Khasi Hills District Action Committee have raised objection to mining of uranium in Khasi Hills.

Production of super computer by Electronics Corporation of India Limited

1876. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Times of India dated 22nd April, 1993 captioned "ECIL to produce BARC super computer";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the super computers being developed by ECIL are five times faster than the indigenously available computers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The super computer developed at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is based on parallel processing techniques and the current version makes use of eight computers interconnected by a high speed communication system. The speed of this computer system as measured by a (1000 x 1000) Linpack benchmark program which is generally used for measuring the computing speed of the super computer systems, is 52 million floating point operations per second. The super computer is already being used extensively by scientists and engineers at BARC for the last one year. The system's performance is being increased by increasing the number of computers in the configuration.

Accidents at atomic plants

1877. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the accidents taking place at various atomic sites and plants during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a slackness in running these plants;

(c) whether it is also a fact that waste disposal is also being handled casually at these atomic energy plants; and

(d) whether the experience of foreign countries in disaster management at these plants has been examined for use here?